The Lions' Pride

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Reflecting on the Past and Looking into the Future

By Christine Bocchino
Contributing Writer
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Social Media Liaison

Before his career in higher education, Dr. Kirk learned the value of hard work and perseverance while working as a milk delivery boy in New Jersey at the age of 12 years old.

"I would start working at 4:30 in the morning, and would work three hours before I went to school," Dr. Kirk said. Throughout college, he also worked as a tractor-trailer operator, college newspaper editor, and a bartender.

Not only was Dr. Kirk's college career an opportunity to develop himself as a leader, but he met his wife and lifelong partner while he was an undergraduate at Kean College—now known as Kean University—in New Jersey.

Since his own college days, Dr. Kirk has achieved many accomplishments including participating in a cross-country bike ride and earning his doctorate in education. Most notably in his career, Dr. Kirk has facilitated change at two academic institutions that were struggling in multiple fields—Saint Leo University was the third. Interestingly enough, while studying education for his doctorate at Rutgers University, Dr. Kirk wrote his dissertation on strategies to help small colleges survive, which can be found on campus in the Cannon Memorial Library.

Dr. Kirk sat down with *The Lions' Pride* for a final interview before retiring as Saint Leo University's eighth president. He reminisced about the early years, core values, and his plans for the future.

Upon Dr. Kirk's arrival to the University in 1997, there were 700 students—only half of that amount lived on campus. Full-time faculty numbered only a quarter of the current full-time faculty. The buildings were old and dilapidated. The campus culture was severely in need of improvement.

But, Dr. Kirk had a plan. During his tenure at Saint Leo University, he created and developed a vision for the future of Saint Leo University, which has thus far aided tremendously in its growth.

As if he was giving a State of Saint Leo speech, Dr. Kirk described Saint Leo 18 years ago when he first arrived.

"The first year virtually everything had to change. It's almost impossible to visually describe the campus because we've done so much building," said Dr. Kirk. "Every roof of each building leaked, the average age of the air conditioning was 37 years old, which had a life expectancy of 20 years. No faculty had computers supplied by the institution. There was an enormous amount of deferred maintenance and most significantly, our people weren't well taken care of."

In order to stay a competitive academic institution, Saint Leo needed renovation to accommodate Dr. Kirk's envisioned future growth of students and academic programs. In order to keep its accreditation, Saint Leo had to improve its academic programs, and give the faculty the resources they needed to do their jobs.

Not only was the campus in disarray, but Dr. Kirk said the campus culture was distinctly different from what it is now, and to change the culture, the core values were a very important step.

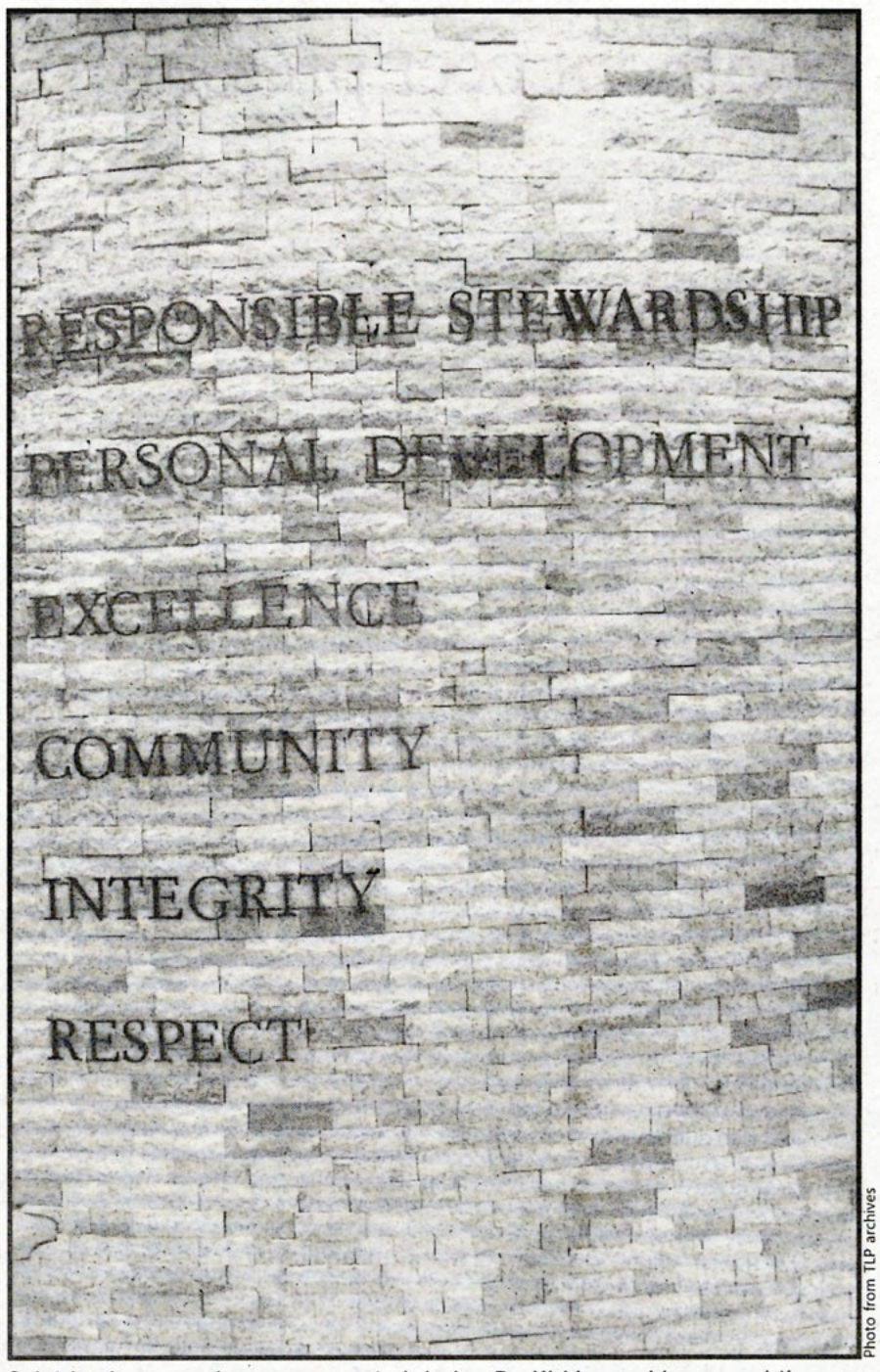

Photo from TLP archives

Saint Leo's core values were created during Dr. Kirk's presidency, and they are one of the accomplishments of which he is most proud.

Dr. Kirk co-chaired the project to create the core values along with Father Tony Kissel. They interviewed faculty and staff, with the goal of defining values that would be a behavioral expectation for the University community and implementing those values.

"The legacy I'm proudest of are the core values," said Dr. Kirk. "My ultimate vision is 25 years from now this graduating class comes back for their reunion and talks about how they live their lives based on our core values."

The core values are not just present on University campus, but are implemented throughout the Saint Leo community – campus, centers, and online.

"It's very impressive to hear online students from Alaska, Pennsylvania, and so forth come to graduation and talk about the core values, what they mean to them, and their importance to their education," said Dr. Kirk.

In order to track and measure the effectiveness of the core values and how the University culture has improved, Dr. Kirk explained they have done an

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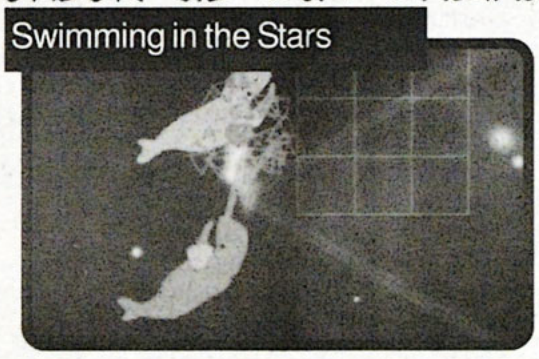

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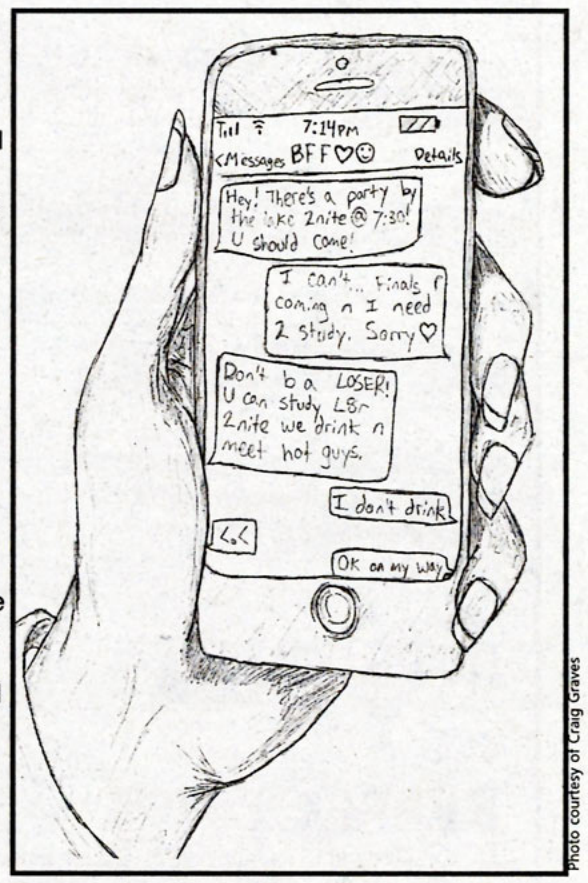
Editorial

Who would you be without peer pressure?

By Amber Fink
Advertising Manager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I don't drink
LoL
OK on my way

Photo courtesy of Craig Graves

While 71% of teens have tried alcohol by the end of high school, far fewer drink to get drunk, according to WebMD.

Peer pressure has always had a negative connotation. Many people were warned going into middle school and high school to not "give in" to fit in with the crowd, but to be themselves. When one thinks about peer pressure it is common to think about things that can affect you mentally and physically in a poor way.

What if peer pressure did not exist? Would that be good or bad? People are quick to jump to peer pressure not being good because of the label or stereotype it has gained over the generations. Is it necessarily true that all peer pressure is bad peer pressure, or have we as a society been trained to think in such a way?

In a world where peer pressure is nonexistent, how would we gain a "backbone"? Would we be able to say "no" to people without hesitation? Would we be able to discover our passions and goals if it doesn't require standing up for what you believe in?

Almost everyone has had an experience of when they experienced peer pressure. Ask yourself how you have changed from that experience. Did you conform to their idea of what was "right" or "ideal"? Did you stand for what you believed in? Without the experience of peer pressure, along with several other life experiences, gaining a "backbone" to stand for what is considered "right" morally to that individual would be impacted. "Everyday we're all told to fit into the perfect image of society and to mold ourselves into what we're not. That's what I fight for everyday, to maintain who I am and what I stand for," said Junior, Marc Lawton.

Many people remember the days, especially in elementary and middle school, when they would reinforce saying "no" to peer pressure of all kinds. If people were not taught that it is okay to say "no" to unhealthy pressure upon an individual, would we? Would we be more concerned with not disappointing or living up to expectations if we were under the misconception that we couldn't make our own decisions?

Have you ever left a belief or passion unrealized because it never had an moment when you had to stand up for it? Perhaps if we were never pressured into different practices in society we wouldn't know what we actually wanted out of our lives and how much they meant to us an unique individual.

Often people use their accomplishments and negative comments as motivation to keep giving their all in what they do. Without submitting to peer pressure, people may feel inferior to others and we would be fearful of leadership and success. Without people beating down who one is as an individual, would we actually appreciate who we are and what we have to offer to impact the world? Think about it.

Ways to avoid peer pressure:

1. Develop a positive self-esteem
2. Say "No"
3. Avoid comparing oneself
4. Make real friends
5. Find a support group
6. Use the buddy system
7. Be repetitive
8. Evaluate friendships
9. Consider the consequences
10. Speak out

Contact Us

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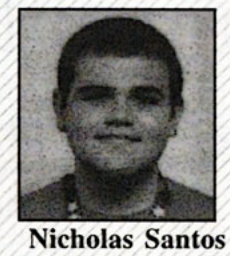
Editor in Chief



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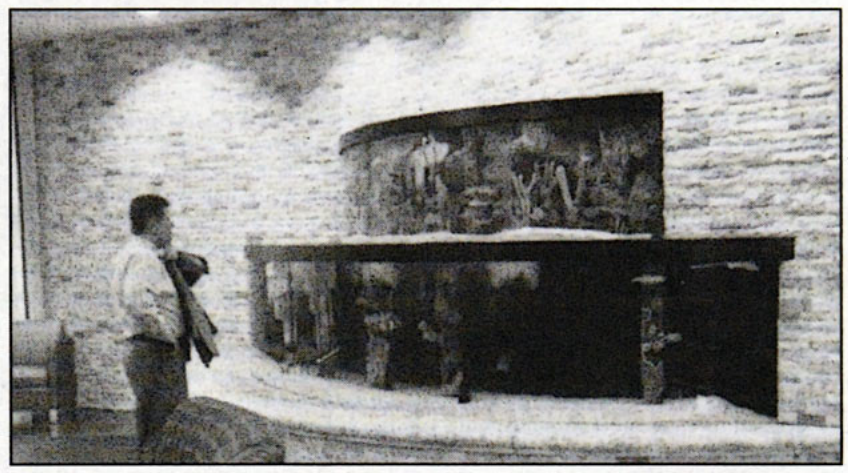
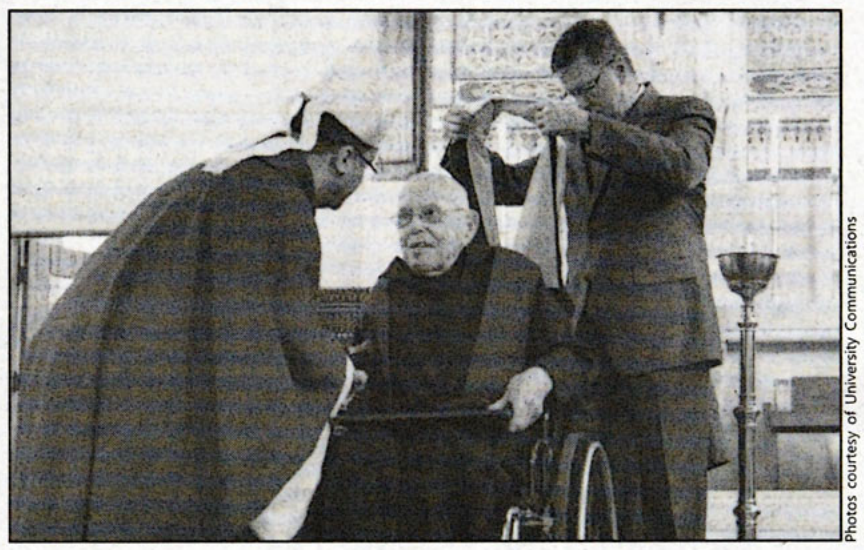




Photos courtesy of University Communications

Clockwise: Dr. Kirk spoke at many events during his presidency. He also enjoyed mingling with the alumni, and at times admired some of the many new elements created on campus. In 2015, Dr. Kirk was honored to award Father Damian DuQuesnay, O.S.B., Awarded Doctor of Humane Letters

Con't on page 3.

Organizational Culture Inventory every two years since 1998.

"The temptation is to rely on anecdotes and interactions, but we have actually administered the same survey by Human Synergistics every two years since 1998 and can track how our culture is improving," Dr. Kirk said. "I can see it in every department within the institution."

After reviewing the results of the Organizational Culture Inventory, Dr. Kirk knew that University leadership needed to change and saw the need to create a leadership program to reverse ineffective leadership styles. This program was called Leadership Saint Leo and was launched in 2005 to build Saint Leo's vice presidents, deans, assistant vice presidents, department chairs, and off-campus center directors into effective leaders who leave a positive impact on the people they lead.

Equivalent to about six graduate credits, the program requires program participants to read multiple books, including *Good to Great* by Jim Collins; *Execution* by Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan; *What Matters Now* by Gary Hamel; *Crucial Conversations* by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Al Switzler; and *Confidence: How Winning Streaks and Losing Streaks Begin and End* by Rosabeth Moss Kanter.

In addition to the leadership program, Dr. Kirk also realized the importance of his faculty.

Dr. Kirk attended a national meeting one year with presidents of other universities. Several were complaining about their faculty, and after listening for a short time, Dr. Kirk got up to leave.

Dr. Kirk reminisced, "I finally just said, 'I don't feel that way about my faculty at all. Please excuse me,' and I left."

Dr. Kirk said they all had contentious relationships with their faculty, and although he knew and liked them all, he was just uncomfortable with the conversation.

"Our faculty are my friends; they are my colleagues. I have an enormous respect for them, and I like being with them," Dr. Kirk said.

And last but not least, Dr. Kirk's appreciation wouldn't be complete without his students. When he reminisces about what he'll miss the most from his time at the University, he smiles.

"The students," Dr. Kirk said. "The faculty and staff would be right behind. Our faculty are my friends, but when it comes to having fun, students have a much better handle on it. When you're a student, you're here to work *and* play. It's fun to be around the students."

Dr. Kirk reminisced about bonding with the students on the golf team when his son attended.

"It's those kinds of interactions with students that are the most memorable," he said.

He also is proud of the University's well-rounded development of its athletes.

According to Dr. Kirk, Saint Leo was "everybody's favorite team to play," because of their almost-inevitable victory every time. Now, Saint Leo has the opposite effect on other schools. Academically, the stretch goal for the average GPA of athletes is 3.0 – last year it was 3.19 and it hasn't gone below 3.0 for five years.

"Every aspect of the campus has been developed and improved," he said.

As Dr. Kirk prepares for retirement, he ponders his future.

Working uninterrupted for 57 years since his first job as a milk delivery boy, Dr. Kirk considered what he would do once he retires.

"I've been doing a lot of work for a long time; I may decide to just be lazy," Dr. Kirk said with a chuckle.

Other than enjoying the relaxation of retirement, he also wants to get his hands in the art of sculpture and take a welding course.

"I've had no art whatsoever my entire life. My wife is an artist, so some of that may have rubbed off on me, and my younger brother is one of the top architects in the country, so I'm hoping that there must be some of those genes in me somewhere and I'm going to find out," Dr. Kirk said as he laughed. He also wants to do a lot more sailing on Keuka Lake in upstate New York, but for leisure, but competitively.

As Dr. Kirk hands the reigns to Dr. Lennox, he assures that the transition will run smoothly.

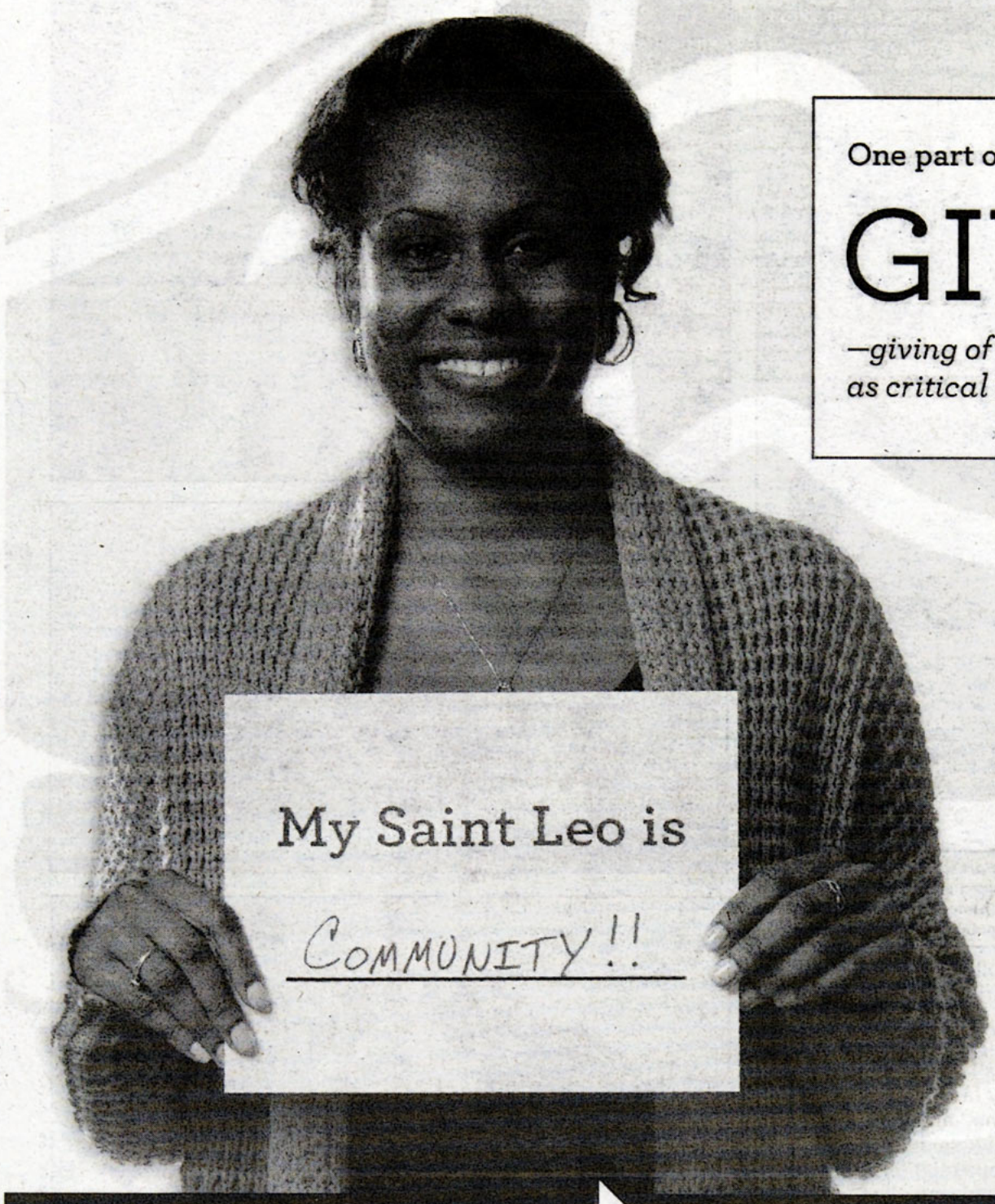
"[People need to understand] that he's a different person who's going to have different ideas; there's not going to be this huge, radical change," said Dr. Kirk.

Lennox is on board with Vision 2017, the mission, the core values, and other pre-existing University projects. As a member of the Board of Trustees, he is familiar with the University and its goals, and as Dr. Kirk stated, the core culture of Saint Leo will remain unaffected by the change in leadership.

"There are not going to be these radical shifts in direction, mission, or values, but how we do things to get there will change. That should be exciting," said Dr. Kirk. "It's supposed to be different."

As his time at Saint Leo comes to a close, Dr. Kirk reflected on the events that he will miss dearly – like the past Spring Sing concert – where he gets to interact with students and see their hard work.

"I won't miss it entirely – at some point I'll start sneaking back in," said Dr. Kirk.



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Health

Laughter: Not Just for Fun and Games

By Craig Graves
Health, Science and Sports Editor

It is often said that laughter is the best medicine, but it is never said for which ailment laughter is the best medicine. Perhaps to decide if laughter is the best medicine, or if it is indeed medicine, one must first know what laughter is and what causes it.

Laughter is defined as the noises produced as a result of the brain responding to a stimulus, which in turn creates contractions of an individual's diaphragm, according to Eric Chudler, Ph.D. from the University of Washington. Chudler went on to say that hearty laughter also includes muscle contractions in an individual's arms, legs, and torso. This means that the most genuine laughter a person can experience involves muscles from all over the body. While hearty laughter uses many of the body's muscles, the simplest laughs only use the same facial muscles as smiling.

"Laughter is part of the universal human vocabulary," said Robert Provine, Ph.D. and professor of psychology and neuroscience from the University of Maryland. "All members of the human species understand it. Unlike English or French or Swahili, we don't have to learn to speak it. We're born with the capacity to laugh."

It is true that anyone is capable of laughing as newborn babies can laugh long before they utter their first words. Even some apes are able to laugh or emulate laughter, though not to the extent as humans.

According to Kara Rogers, a Ph.D. of pharmacology from the University of Arizona, laughter is itself a stimulus for the brain and activates the hypothalamus and midbrain, which play roles in people's experiences of pleasure.

Provine and Chudler both agree that true laughter is classified as a "spontaneous reaction," or rather that people cannot force themselves to laugh. And thanks to this spontaneous nature, laughter is wholly unpredictable.

In a study conducted by Provine that spanned ten years and observed more than 2,000 interactions that produced laughter, any number of different things can elicit the laughter of another person. Provine found that the reasons why someone might laugh vary from person to person just as the sound or intensity of laughter can vary.

Based upon these findings, laughter is strictly limited to jokes. In fact, most of the examples of natural laughter that Provine observed did not result from someone telling a joke. Instead, simple statements or questions were met with laughter. Provine concluded that laughter is such a common occurrence that human speech has adapted so that laughing never interrupts what is said, but rather happens whenever one might cough or take a breath.

Now with this explanation of what laughter is and what can cause it, the question of laughter being the best medicine is brought back into focus. Medicine is meant to help improve an individual's health and wellbeing, or in some cases maintain a healthy lifestyle.

In his observational study, Provine found that laughter was infectious. Whenever one person laughed, others soon followed or at least smiled to some extent. He also determined that the stronger the relationship shared by the individuals, the heartier the shared laughter was.

Those findings show laughter to be a social experience and enjoyable for all involved. The feeling of enjoyment or any other similarly happy emotions can cause various chemical reactions in the brain, most notably to produce dopamine and endorphins.

"Endorphins are opiates capable of relieving pain," said Rogers.

Rogers also stated that growth hormones are produced by laughing and can help with growth and metabolism. Other chemicals produced by laughing aid in lowering blood pressure, boosting the immune system, and relieving stress and tension.

Based upon this information, laughter might be considered as good medicine as it is both generally healthy and does not cost anything. There are some things people should keep in mind, however. Since hearty laughter does involve muscle contractions in the torso, there is a possibility that some people could experience abdominal pain from excessive laughter.

"People who have recently had abdominal surgery should try to avoid laughing to alleviate any possible injury," said Chudle. "There are some cases were individuals have had heart attacks or strokes as a result of intense laughter. Patients with broken or fractured ribs should also be careful."

To return to the main question of laughter being the best medicine, the answer is not a definite 'yes.' While laughter itself does provide many health benefits like relieving stress and boosting the function of the immune system, it cannot cure every ailment and is not advised for everyone. It is best to seek medical attention for illnesses and injuries as no one can laugh away the pain of a broken leg or the flu.

Photo drawn by Craig D. Graves

Both humans and primates are capable of laughing as a reaction to a stimulus, though humans are the only species that has different variations to how each individual may laugh.

Arts & Entertainment

An Alien Looking For A Home Near You

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer

DreamWorks has made people of all ages laugh, cry, and smile with their past movies, such as "Madagascar," "How to Train Your Dragon," and the "Shrek" series. On the other hand, "Home," directed by Tim Johnson, brings families closer together on an adventure with a curious alien and a teenage girl. The film is based off of the children's book, "The True Meaning of Smekday," written by Adam Rex in 2007.

The film is about a small purple alien named Oh (Jim Parsons) who is part of a race called the Boovs. Running from their enemies the Gorgs, the Boovs search for a planet in which they can call home. Their sights fall on the planet Earth and they quickly begin their invasion. Not wanting to harm the humans, the Boov's relocate most of the human race to other parts of Earth. The Boovs then settle in, and Oh decides to get an apartment.

When Oh tries to invite all of his friends by e-mail over to a housewarming party, he accidently sends the message to the Gorg enemy as well. The Boov race declares him banished and chase after him. He meets a human teenage girl named Tip and her cat Pig, as she traps Oh into a refrigerator. He finds out that Tip was separated from her mother in the relocation of the humans and has gained a grudge against the Boov race. However, after Oh explains about his current situation and the Boov police hot on his tail she releases the Boov and has him turn her car into a hover car for them to escape in. When the Boov try to delete the message Oh sent, they find that they need him in order to get the password to his e-mail. Now Oh and Tip wander around the world as the Boov Police track them down to get the password.

The imagery and color scheme in this movie are beautiful, as they use a multitude of vibrant colors. Vibrant colors are important in children's movies because they hold the youthful audience's attention, as well as distract from simplistic storylines.

Jim Parsons does a good job voice acting Oh by making the character sound curious and sporadically happy whenever the he learns something new. One of the best scenes in the movie is when Boov begins dancing and freaks out due to Earth being new to him.

The movie in itself doesn't hit all of the points that past DreamWorks movies have hit. Though the film is original, it lacks anything parents and adults might find interesting. Animated movies are not only seen by children but adults as well, and when the adults aren't as interested as the kids are, then they are less likely to take their kids to the movie.

Though this movie is bright and colorful and has a lot of cute characters and jokes, the story falls flat just from how simplistic it is.

"Home" is a decent movie for young children and can keep them entertained for its hour and a half run-time. However, if you are an adult who doesn't like a lack of plot, then this movie isn't for you. This movie gets a 3/5.

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Location: Janus Landing Courtyard
Contact: 727-565-0550
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Price: Starting at $49
Description:
Folk Rock group Flogging Molly comes to the Janus Landing Courtyard to give an energetic performance for all their fans. Those who attend should expect an upbeat performance. Flogging Molly is known for their stage presence and music inspired by Irish Culture.

Pippin
Date: 4/14/15-4/19/15
Location: Carol Morsani Hall at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts
Contact: 813-229-7827
Time: Multiple, See Website
Price: TBA
Description:
Following a young prince attempting to find the meaning of his life. This leads him on a dangerous and eventful journey, where he must decide how he wishes to live his life, and what the most important aspects of it are.

Fiddler on the Roof
Date: 4/17/15-4/25/15
Location: TECO Theatre at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts
Contact: 813-229-7827
Time: Multiple, See Website
Price: Starting at $20
Description:
A Jewish family struggles through anti-semitism. The father, Tevye, and his three daughters attempt to live in this awful time, and find love amongst all of the sickening hatred.

Arts & Entertainment

Red Swingline: Symphonic Solo Metal

By Jonah Robertson
National, Local and World News Editor

"Avenue," an instrumental Progressive Metal album only available online, is a solo effort from emerging artist Red Swingline. Published in May 2014, it is his third album to date, and is a wonderful representation of his extensive musical abilities.

Red Swingline is a solo artist named Erich Dylus from Washington, D.C. At first listen, it seems unbelievable that this album is the work of just one musician. Each song is carefully crafted with many layers of complex instrumentals.

"I chose the pseudonym 'Red Swingline' as a reference to Milton's cherished stapler in the movie 'Office Space,' because this solo music project is similarly cherished and uniquely important to me," said Dylus.

Musically, the album is incredibly entertaining, and any fans of Technical or Progressive Rock and Heavy Metal should find it very enjoyable. Though it is a purely instrumental piece, it does not feel as though it needs vocals. Some standout tracks the album's 23 minute runtime are "Monmouth," "Saratoga," and "Memorial."

"Monmouth" is one of the album's most mellow and relaxing pieces. Between the acoustic guitar and the rhythmic beat track in the background, the song has an atmosphere that makes one think of sitting at home and resting, without a care in the world. Later in the song, more elements, such as drums and a second guitar, are introduced that cause the song to take on a slightly more epic scope, while still keeping its relaxing tone. The guitar is masterfully written and played, and while certainly not the most complex song on the album, "Monmouth" might be the most aurally pleasing.

"Saratoga" starts off with explosive guitar riffs and pounding drums, and this does not let up over the song's three and a half minute runtime. Of all the tracks on the album, this one is the most likely to get the listener to start head banging along with it. In the very last portion, a piano is introduced for some mellow background to the song's heavier nature, and it leaves the listener yearning for more.

"'Saratoga' [is] probably the heaviest song I've ever written" said Dylus.

"Memorial" is the longest song on the album, with a runtime of six minutes, and is an absolute masterpiece. Starting off with some distorted guitars and drumming, it quickly evolves into some complex guitar riffing and various stylistic changes throughout the entire track. After the heavy intro, it shifts into an acoustic section, and then returns to a soul-crushingly heavy portion of the song. This alternation between very soft and very loud portions of the song is an incredibly stylistic choice. It makes this song by far the most appealing on the album. It also shows off the artist's technical skill the most, as all of the instrumentals throughout the song are spot-on.

"I wrote this album over the course of a year, and all of the song names on the album are names of streets that were personally important for various reasons at the time of each song's writing" Said Dylus.

There are many challenges that come from writing, recording, and producing one's own album.

"The biggest difficulties for me arise in mixing and mastering, because without opinions from other band members or studio engineers, it's easy to over-analyze and constantly tweak the mixes" said Dylus.

Red Swingline recently released a single called "Smoke and Steam," which can be found online with the rest of the artist's work at http://redswingline.bandcamp.com.

"I draw a lot of inspiration from progressive metal bands like Animals as Leaders, Between the Buried and Me, Scale the Summit, Intervals, Russian Circles, and also numerous jazz musicians. Cloudkicker (Ben Sharp) and Misha Mansoor (Bulb, Periphery) also specifically inspire me as a solo musician, both through their music and by demonstrating that solid production can be achieved through home recording even on a limited budget with the right techniques and approaches," said Red Swingline.

While this album is an incredibly diverse and wonderful piece of art to listen to, there is one unfortunate flaw in a couple of the songs. While most of the album is wonderfully produced, every once in a while there are moments where it feels as though some of the instrumentals are slightly off tempo. This never lasts for more than a second, however, and does not detract from the music unless one goes out of their way to listen for them.

"Avenue" is an incredible solo album, and Red Swingline should be proud for releasing such a fantastic piece of art. It is almost impossible to pick out a single bad song on the album, as each of them is incredibly dynamic and entertaining. All in all, I would give the album a 4.9/5 and would recommend it to anyone interested in this particular musical style.

"Furious 7": The Last Ride?

By Dakota Schwalbach
Contributing Writer

Since 2001 the Fast and Furious franchise has followed the stories of Dominic "Dom" Toretto and Brian O'Connor as they battle between two rivaling street gangs in Los Angeles. As a former FBI agent Brian (Paul Walker) was tasked with infiltrating the gang run by Dom (Vin Diesel). By the end of the first movie the members of Dom's gang discover that Brian is an agent, they soon develop a strong relationship that strengthens further through the rest of the series.

"Furious 7" is an immediate continuation of the events that occurred in "Fast & Furious 6". After Han's (Sung Kang) murder by Ian Shaw (Jason Statham); Dom receives a call from Ian who declares his pursuit of revenge on Dom's crew following the death of Ian's brother Owen. After the chain of events following the bombing of Dom's house the rest of the film follows the standard formula for a "Fast & Furious" movie; fast cars, attractive girls, and old school rap.

Special effects are a large part of any movie and "Furious 7" is no exception. Throughout the series viewers have witnessed the crew performing all sorts of unbelievably cool stunts in their vehicles. In "Furious 7" these stunts go even more out of the realm of imagination with the drivers driving out of planes, buildings, and down the sides of mountains. Whilst tracking the cars through jagged mountain passes and down mountains the cinematography of the film remains top notch. As the cars race down roads, or sides of mountains, the camera angles change in order to give the audience a heightened perspective. The angles vary from tracking shots in sharp hard turns, whip pan shots to show the perspective of the cars racing by, and point of view shots to place the audience right in the middle of the action by showing them what the characters are seeing.

On November 13, 2013 Paul Walker died in a car accident in Valencia, California. When he died Universal Studios was only partially done with filming "Furious 7". After the cast was given a few weeks to mourn for the loss of a close friend, Paul's younger brother Cody was brought into the studio to finish filming the remainder of Paul's scenes. Due to the fact that Cody has slight appearance and vocal differences compared to Paul; the special effects coordinators used their talents to mask Cody's face and voice using recordings and photos of Paul.

In the last ten minutes of the film Dom's crew is shown on the beach with Brian's toddler. Shortly after the scene begins Dom is shown leaving the beach without saying goodbye. As Dom reaches a stop sign along the road, riding in a similar version of the Dodge Charger he drove in the original film, Brian pulls alongside him in a Nissan Supra and they race for one last time. As the cars are shown driving down the highway together the audience is provided with a short monologue; that I feel is being delivered by Vin Diesel to Paul Walker, rather than from Dom to Brian. Towards the end of the tribute Brian's car veers off onto a separating road and drives towards the horizon.

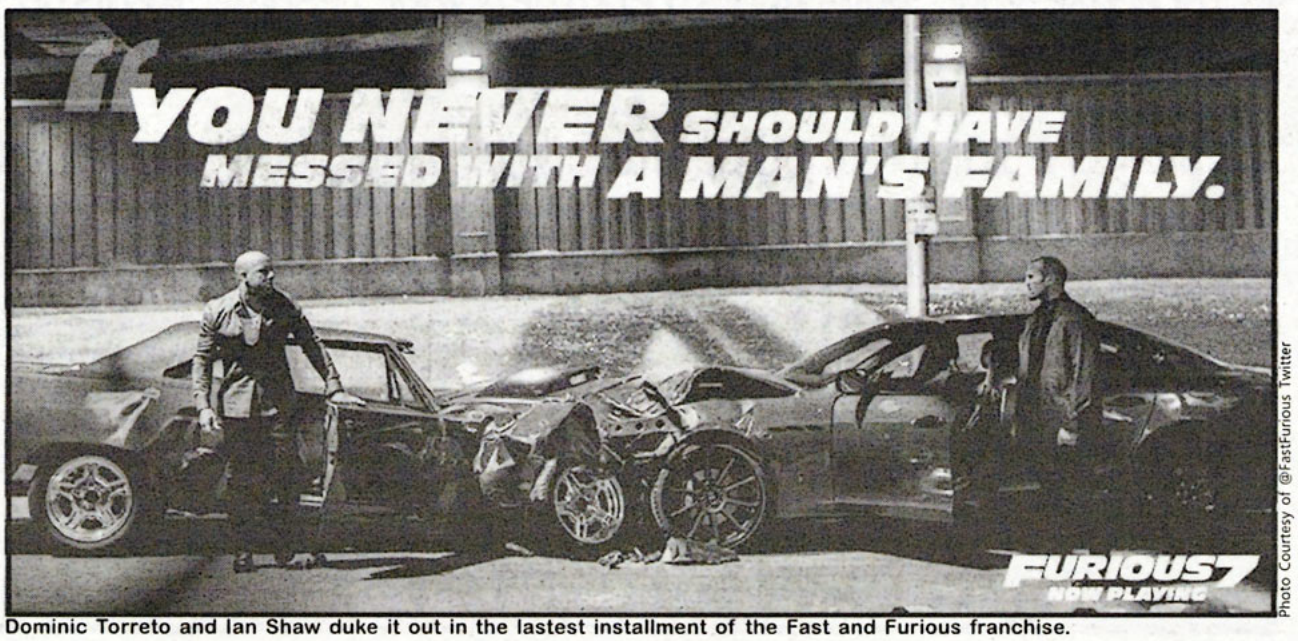

Photo Courtesy of @FastFurious Twitter

Dominic Torreto and Ian Shaw duke it out in the lastest installment of the Fast and Furious franchise.

Sports

Is Jameis Winston the Right Choice for Buccaneers?

By William Relihan
Contributing Writer

With less than three weeks remaining until the NFL draft, there is a lot of buzz surrounding Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston, and for good reason. In Winston's debut season as a redshirt sophomore in 2013, he led Florida State to their first National Championship since 1999. In doing so, Winston was also awarded the Heisman trophy; the highest honor for collegiate football players. In terms of physical ability, Jameis Winston has been rated as the best quarterback prospect to come out of college since Andrew Luck, who is now a pro-bowl signal caller for the Indianapolis Colts.

After sustaining the worst overall record in the league, Tampa Bay has since been the favorite suitor of the Florida State product. While nearly every single mock draft and professional football analyst has Winston going to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with the first overall pick, there are some off-field issues concerning Winston's future in the National Football League. Winston was subject to many disciplinary infractions during Winston's college football career at Florida State, one of which even included a date-rape scandal, which eventually ended without the indictment of the Florida State quarterback. As many teams have lost star players to off-field league infractions, general managers and front-offices alike have their doubts about Jameis Winston.

All-pro wide receiver Josh Gordon, all-pro running back Adrian Peterson, and others have all faced suspensions from league offices for violations of league policy. Josh Gordon remains suspended indefinitely for his third infraction. Nonetheless, Jameis Winston's physical tools, and knowledge of the game have been unanimously recognized, and in a pass-happy football league, NFL teams may find it difficult to pass up a rare talent such as Winston.

In Tampa Bay, there has been a playoff drought for over a decade. The last playoff win for Tampa Bay was the Super Bowl in 2002, during which they were led by legendary coach Jon Gruden. Even in those glory days of Buccaneer's history, there has been perpetual mediocrity at the quarterback position. Although analysts and front offices alike have Jameis Winston at the top of their boards, recent polls in the Tampa Bay area suggest fans are indifferent. Currently 52% of Buccaneer fans favor incumbent Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota as their choice with the number 1 overall pick in the draft. As Florida residents, perhaps they imagine Tampa as one of the worst possible destinations for Winston. Not because of his ability on the field, but Tampa's geographic proximity to Tallahassee, where Florida State's campus is. Many sports editors have noticed this, and if Winston is to continue his collegiate off-field antics, Tampa Bay may just be the best enabler of this behavior.

Photos from Twitter @Holiday HQ Team

Jameis Winston has had sixteen first-place stat ratings during his football career at Florida State University.

As history has shown, with Gordon and Peterson, there is no amount of talent that can help a team when they are suspended and unable to participate. Therefore, Tampa is left with the difficult decision of rolling the dice on Jameis Winston's maturity. Often times however, the greater the risk, the greater the reward.

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